



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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July 3, 2012

Dear Participants and Families:

With the implementation of Project Sustainability on July 1, 2011, this past year has been a year of transition for the Participants and their families, DD organizations and the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals. The Department hosted family meetings, posted communications to the BHDDH website, sent mass emails and expanded the QI Hotline in order to communicate system changes to all stakeholders as well as facilitate miscommunications or misunderstandings between Participants and DD organizations. The Department continues its commitment to the people we serve and to a system that promotes individual choice and is flexible.

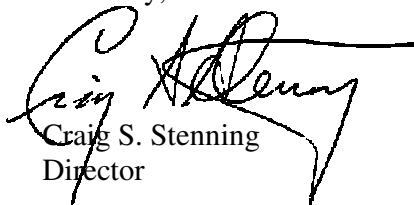
The Department is grateful to the General Assembly and the Governor for enacting the FY2013 budget with a substantial increase in the BHDDH DD FY 2013 appropriations. The Department is also aware that many DD Providers have gone to extraordinary lengths to work in collaboration with Department through this period of transition and change. We have an important shared goal to ensure that Rhode Island's most vulnerable citizens continue to receive the services and supports to which they are entitled in the least restrictive safe and supportive environments. Our federal Medicaid funding agency, the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) has approved the DD rate methodology and we have an opportunity now to move forward together to further strengthen our service delivery system to support those we serve.

We are pleased to include the authorization for services for the quarter beginning July 1, 2012. These authorizations comply 100% with the legislative intent of the increase in funding, continuing the April 1, 2012 direct care rate of \$11.30 per hour. In addition, the Department was able to increase funding for health insurance and other employee benefits by 1% system-wide. While these may seem to be small changes, we are in a much better place than we were one year ago. Should you have questions about the authorizations, feel free to contact your DD organization support coordinator, DD social worker or the Hotline at 462-2629.

Attached is information on a great program called Best Buddies. This program matches individuals with intellectual disabilities with individuals in the corporate and civic community as well as school systems such as colleges, high schools and middle schools to promote one-to-one friendships and supported employment. We hope that you will consider joining and/or volunteering for Best Buddies.

Each quarter, I hope to promote or update you on some of the great work and programs that are available to you in Rhode Island. If you have suggestions for programs, please email projectsustainability@bhddh.ri.gov.

Sincerely,



Craig S. Stenning
Director